President of AIIMS

548. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an ex-minister of Health is hanging on to the office of Presidentship of AIIMs; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) The former Minister of Health continues to be the President of AIIMS as per the decision of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Elections in J & K

549. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated the election Process in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what according to the prevailing situation, are the prospects of elections in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and the period by which elections in the State are likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) All procedural matters like delimitation of Constituencies and revision of electoral rolls have been completed. To create conditions conducive to normalisation and the restoration of the democratic institutions in the State, a number of steps have been taken including sustained and targetted operations to contain the activities of the militants and reduce fear of the gun; stepping up of the pace of development and economic activities in the State; reactivation of the civil administration and restoring its morale; restoration of confidence of the people in the administration; facilitating activities of the political elements in the State; and encouraging the people in strengthening the peace process through confidence building measures, including release of some detenues, etc. The situation is being kept under constant review and a decision about the precise timing of the elections will be taken at the appropriate time in consultation with the Election Commission of India.

Servicing of MIG Aircrafts

550. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russian fighter aircraft manufacturer has threatened to cancel service and spares guarantees for its MIG series aircraft if India gets the planes upgraded by other countries;

(b) the estimated cost of upgrading MIG 29s;

(c) the reasons behind not getting the planes upgraded through its manufacturer; and

(d) how the problem is proposed to be solved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) It has been decided to upgrade the MIG-21 BIS aircraft with the Russians as the prime contractor for design, development and test phase; followed by productionisation of the upgraded version indigenously at HAL. Commercial negotiations to finalise the total cost of upgradation are in progress. There is, therefore, no likelihood of service and spares guarantees, for MIG series of aircraft, being cancelled by the Russian manufacturer. Upgradation of MIG-29 would depend upon the progress and success of MIG-21 BIS aircraft upgrade programme.